April 21, 1970

466 - 24th St.

Oakland, Calif.
94612

Dear Hal,

Today's Oakland Tribune has an AP story out of New York concerning the U2 affair in which it is alleged that Oswald could have helped the Russians down the spy plane bAck in 1960. This looks as if this might be Curt Gentry's work since from what you once wrote he had been doing a book on Powers. The AP story I have states that the book will be Powers' autobiography, entitled, "Operation Overflight" WITH Holt, Rinehart & Winston the publisher.

I'm sure that by the time you receive this letter it will appear in the papers there. What has been the reaction there, if any? On the face of it there would appear to be little credence to this even if one were to assume that Oswald had as a mission some intelligence mission with the CIA while residing in Russia. Otherwise, if I can believe the reports I read long ago that the Russians had turned over their entire files or dossier on Oswald to the Warren Commission why wouldn"t the Russians have exposed Oswald for just such a deed. The matter of the U2 affair was not child's play at the very time when the Russians were seeking an entente. Certainly the Russians knew that Powers mission was to upset the summit conference which it did and this meant that Powers had to know what he was doing. The Soviet intelligence apparatus is not stupid from what I

can gather and to have cooperated with the Warren Commission just doesn't make sense if he were a U.S. spy helping the Russians. Oswald could have performed a quite different role and still be an agent which the Russians had only guessed at but were never able to prove suggesting that Oswald's role might have been a limited or narrow one possibly as a result of the Russians having suspected him in the first place.

I am enclosing a number of articles relating to the whole Skolnick affair of which Paul has told me the sorry business. Jim White first told me about it on the phone April 7 when he said he got it over the AP wire. As he began filling me in with the details I began to suspect theft of your research but it wasn't until I checked with Paul that the suspicion was confirmed. It is a sad and contemptible state of affairs which the establishement press could make merry with. Witness the opening lines to a Time piece dated April 20 on Skolnick which begins: "That conspiratorial army of would-be historians who specialize in the assassination of John Kennedy may have a brand-new plot to play with."(If you don't have this article write me and I'll send you a copy).

Included in the articles I've enclosed is one by Penn Jones dated April 6, 1970. In the last paragraph he mentions a "suit" filed in California concerning Oswald being in touch with DISC in Raleigh, North Carolina. By coincidence, where I work this agency sends orders and they have their main HQ in Philadelphia. They obtain all the necessary materials needed by the government from soup to nuts. You name it and

they can order it. I asked Mr. White if he knew of this "suit" and he said that he had come across no story on it. He called Bill Turner to see if he might know but Turner was out of town. Mrs. Turner answered instead. She was to call him that very night and Mr. White suggested that Turner get in touch with Skolnick since he was then in Chicago. It should be intersting to see what Turner learns from Skolnick and when Turner returns Mr. White will be in touch with him.

But the really interesting thing about this article is Jones stating that Oswald ~~being~~ WAS in touch with a "top agent" of DISC in Raleigh, North Carolina. I had recalled from memory that Oswald was supposed to have a phone number in his possession of someone in Raleigh and I checked my notes on this to refresh my memory. I came across a reference to a James D. Hurt of Raleigh in a letter you wrote to me on January 29, 1968 and you asked if I knew anything about him. I didn't at the time but it appears to me at some ~~after~~ LATER date somewhere you mentioned that he was a phone number Oswald had in his possession at the time of his arrest. (I don't recall if this was his arrest in August, 1963 or the one after the assassination but the latter seems to be the one if memory serves).

You asked me about the KKHI program that Judy Bonner did. I did not hear it nor have I heard the tape which Paul prepared for you so I can't really comment on it. However, I can comment on the nature of the radio station. It is primarily a classical music station and therefore must have a rather limited audience. I doubt if more than a thousand persons heard it, if that many. She may be seeking to get as

much publicity for her book as possible and this could have been another interview or review of her book by one more station in the Bay Area or it might be that this could have been the only station interested enough to take her on. I suspect the latter case to be so but I'm speculating on the value of her book as seen by these radio stations.

You might be intersted in knowing that since Paul Elder sold his book store in S.F. he is now writing a daily book review column for the S.F. Examiner. You might keep this in mind in case you want to send him your work. I'm sure he would give a good review.

By the way in that Vallee story it is interesting to recall that Ferrie is alleged to have made a few trips to Chicago and I have one article claiming that a Garrison investigator knew about these trips. According to the Winnipeg (Canada) Free Press story of May 17, 1967 "an assistant DA" is quoted in the Giesbrecht bit as saying that Ferrie could have made that trip to Cnada in February, 1964 where Giesbrecht allegedly saw him and is also quoted as saying,"We know he's been out of the country and he's been working out of Chigago a little, too." The most likely person to have been quoted is Louis Ivon and the next time you speak to him you might ask him about that and see if this at all relates to the Vallee thing.

Well, other than what I have just typed there is little else new here. I did get down to Los Angeles last week-end and saw Ray Marcus and ~~XXXXXX~~ called Maggie on the phone but there is nothing happening down there to speak of.

Nothing new from Dolan, either.

Best,

Hal Verb

P.S. Almost forgot. I'm enclosing a G eyhound bus ticket good for one way between Baltimore and Newark, New Jersey which you can still use. I never got to use it when I was there to see you last December. As I recall it id good for one year after being issued. If you can't use it, give it to Paul when he gets there.